

News Release



For Immediate Release

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SNEAK PREVIEW ADVISORY

Rancho Cordova School to be First to Premiere Governor's New Seacam Web

On Tuesday morning, at 10 AM, the most visual impact of the Governor's new web portal will be premiered in a classroom at Mitchell Middle School in Rancho Cordova. A group of students there will be the first-ever to make a click or two and transform the sights and sounds of thousands of elephant seals into their classroom via computer, complete with a State Park Ranger to answer questions directly from the kids in a live talk-back.

The State Department of Parks and Recreation has installed two, live television cameras at Año Nuevo State Reserve, south of San Francisco. The two cameras are now operating all day long, everyday, giving web users a view of one of the most compelling animal attractions in North America, the largest mainland breeding ground in the world for the northern elephant seals.

For thousands of school children who cannot make the field trip to Año Nuevo, this brings the field trip to them, through their classroom computers. It provides another exciting and educational teaching tool for schools across the state, and as Governor Gray Davis said: "We are using web technology to personalize government in a way no other state has ever done."

The seals, some weighing as much as two and one-half tons, are now in midst of the mating season, December through February, with the large males doing battle many times daily to win the hearts of the females. Those wishing to view the classroom demonstration of this new educational tool from state parks, should go to the following school tomorrow:

**10 AM – Tuesday, January 9, 2001
Mitchell Middle School
2100 Zinfandel Drive - Rancho Cordova, CA**

California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>